

Maine DMR Scallop Rotational Management Proposal

Scoping Meeting Summaries

Milbridge Area: Monday, May 21, 10am-1pm – Milbridge Town Hall

Attendance: Merrill Wallace, Eric Beal, Larry Finnegan, Alton Wallace & Carla Guenther

SAC Attendance: None

DMR Staff: Trisha De Graaf & MPO Jason Leavitt

Highlights

- In support of rotational management
- Support equal access to closed areas for divers/draggers (ie. No separate fishing days)

Summary: This group of fishermen is willing to pursue rotational management of three areas from Schoodic Point to Addison, the eastern portion of Region 3 (Schoodic to Lubec). The three areas are delineated by headlands or island, which are easily enforceable and include good scallop bottom in each rotation and can be view in Figure 1 below.

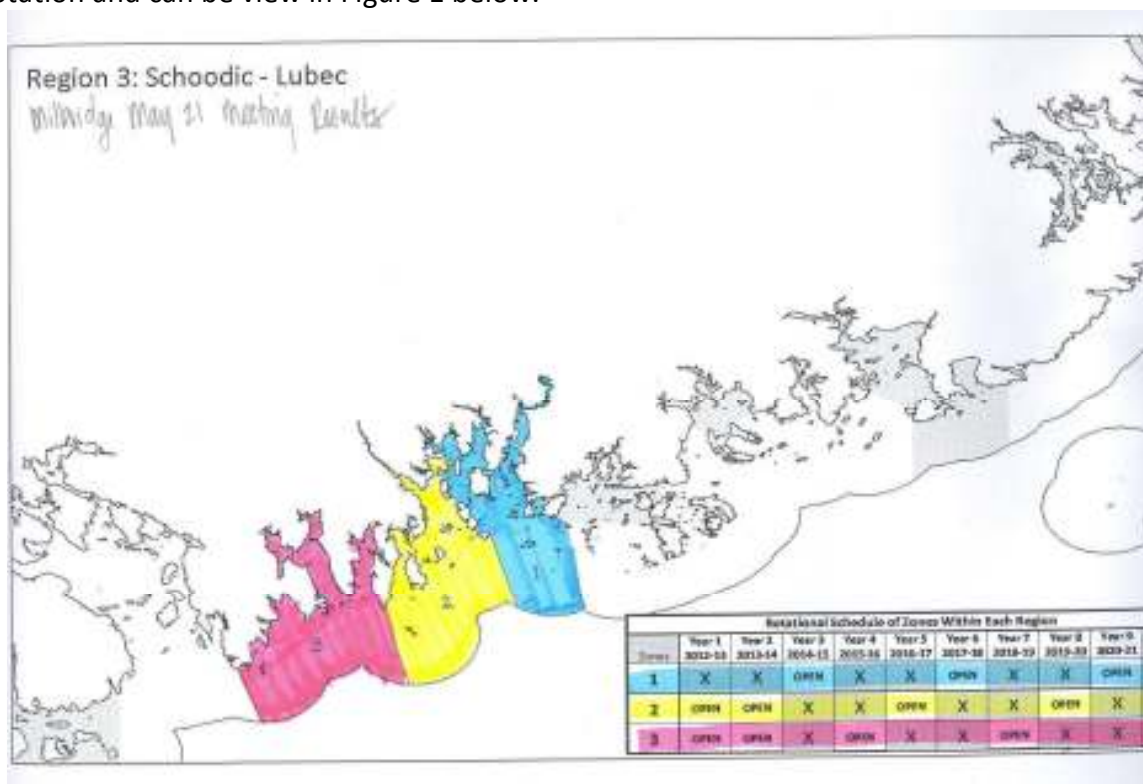


Figure 1. Milbridge meeting results.

The group elected to offer up for the first rotation of closure, the zone furthest east, which is denoted by a "1" in the figure above, which includes all of Pleasant Bay and the Pleasant, Harrington and Mill River estuaries with the eastern boundary running due south of Moose Neck and Toms Island and the western boundary running magnetic south from Flint Island. The second zone (2) slated for closure in 2014-15 includes Narraguagus Bay and Pigeon Hill Bay with the eastern boundary running magnetic south from Flint Island and the western boundary running from Petit Manan Point, across Petit Manan Bay to Green and Petit Manan Island and out to Simms Rock buoy on the 3 nm line. The third zone (3) includes Dyer and Gouldsboro Bays with the eastern boundary running from Petit Manan Point, across Petit Manan Bay to Green and Petit Manan Island and out to Simms Rock buoy on the 3 nm line and the western boundary running magnetic south from Schoodic Point.

Attendees did not wish to delineate areas to the west or east as they were not familiar with those areas and preferred to let fishermen from those areas decide on how best to set those areas up for rotational management. Some attendees of this meeting may attend the meeting in Jonesport on June 5th to help ensure that the results of that meeting compliment those from this meeting. Other concerns raised in this meeting included the proposed 2012-13 season; attendees do not feel that having separate days for divers and draggers in the closed areas are warranted and feel that giving the divers access to the closed areas before the draggers is unfair. They feel both sets of fishermen should have equal access, despite safety concerns, which was the basis for the separation. They also feel that by having separate days in the closed areas that the overall effort in the closed areas will increase as there will be 2 full days of harvest in December occurring in the closed areas and 4 full days the rest of the season. They would prefer one day a week in December for everyone, and that day being Wednesday, and two days the rest of the season and those being Monday and Tuesday. Also, they would prefer that the season start December 15th and not December 1st.

Cobscook Bay: Monday, May 21, 3-6pm – Whiting Town Hall

Attendance: Tracey Sawtelle, David Kendall, Mike Murphy Sr., Mike Murphy II, John Rule, Scott Emery, Tom Pottle, Ryan S., Terry Bridges, Billy Moore, Will Hopkins, and Heidi Leighton.

SAC Attendance: Barry Huckins

DMR Staff: Trisha De Graaf & MPO Jason Leavitt

Highlights

- **Not in support of rotational management**
- **Proposed an alternate plan of a limited season with 135 lbs daily limit & 42 days and Monday, Wednesday & Friday fishing (not concurrent days) with mid-season meeting to decide on shut down area. Prefer to manage area using the “Trigger” mechanism**
- **Support expanding closures to all similar gear types (ie. Sea urchins)**
- **Support an owner-operator requirement**
- **Concerned about grey meat issues**
- **Support mandatory landings stations**
- **Support having own zone with participants required to opt-in and stay in**
- **Not in support of closures along the international boundary (ie. St. Croix)**

Summary: Overall, this group of participants does not support rotational management for Cobscook Bay. They feel that the entire area is much too small to be able to support a viable fishery in any year of the rotation, that the areas that remain open will be overfished by the redistribution of effort from closed areas and that it will only cause safety issues in those areas once re-opened. They would prefer to have a shorter season (42 days) with Monday, Wednesday and Friday fishing and the lower limit of 135 lbs. in lieu of rotational management with the fishery managed by using the “Trigger” mechanism of half the boats harvesting half the quota as the basis for shutting the area down based on port sampling information or a random survey of fishery participants. It was explained that it may not be possible to have a hard definition of a “Trigger” in regulation and the best that the Department may be able to provide will be relying heavily on Marine Patrol and Port Sampling observations in the area complimented by harvester’s communication relaying issues that may arise and the possibility of sending a sea sampler out with an industry volunteer to collect more data on what is being harvested. Without knowing what the trigger is up front and how areas would be re-opened in the future, they declined to shut down additional areas. They would prefer to have a mid-season meeting with the Department to discuss whether or not the area should be shut down.

When presented with a compromise of having the core area of the fishery, South and East Bay, remain open while the surrounding bays undergo rotational management, they declined this option stating that this would increase safety concerns upon reopening. Finally, when asked if they would like to at a minimum shut down the area around Treats Island and Eastport next season for rebuilding, as that area was where the effort shifted after the emergency closure this past season, they declined that option as well. In addition, they stated that they did not want to shut down any areas that urchin fishing would be allowed to continue in.

Other issues that were raised included the need for an owner-operator provision for the scallop fishery as this would prevent other license holders from running a boat after the original operator has received a summons for a violation and the need for stricter penalties. Also the issue of grey meats was raised and the fact that environmental factors may be contributing to their presence, such as septic issues in Machias. They also suggested designated landings station as a possible venue for more closely

monitoring catch. Finally, many participants would like to make the Cobscook Area its own zone that fishermen would have to “opt-in” to and stay there, therefore fostering improved stewardship for this area.

Barry Huckins did provide a map that he drafted up as a suggestion on how rotational management could potentially work in Cobscook Bay (Figure 2).

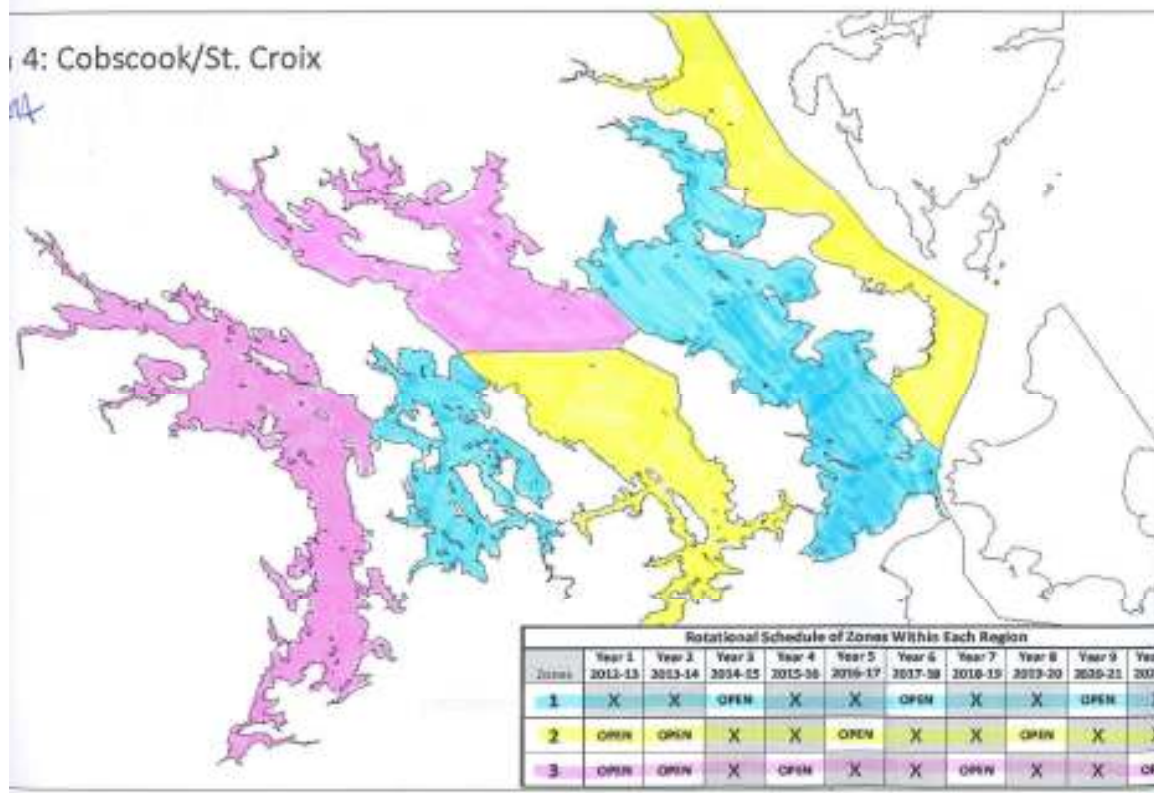


Figure 2. Barry Huckins suggestion for rotational management of Region 4 - Cobscook Bay/St. Croix Area.

Western Maine, Casco Bay: Tuesday, May 22, 6-9pm – Casco Bay Lines, Portland

Attendance: Jeff Stenzel, Brian Soper and Brian Preney.

Attendance: George Freeman and Dana Morse

DMR Staff: Trisha De Graaf & MPO Danny White

Highlights

- **Not in support of rotational management**
- **Proposed an alternate plan of retaining current closed areas with limited harvest, 135 lbs daily limit & retaining current closed areas as limited access areas**
- **Support an increase in daily limit for recreational harvesters from two quarts to one gallon**
- ***Note: Only divers were present at this meeting; one dragger at the Ellsworth meeting provided comment on Region 1 and was in support of rotational management***

Summary: The meeting commenced with a discussion regarding recreation harvesters and the current daily limit of 2 quarts of meats. It was stated that due to the negligible impact to the overall resource that recreational harvesters have, that their limit be increased to the original limit of a gallon of meats per day. While it was acknowledge in the conversation that increasing the recreational limit may run contrary to the Department's position of "imminent depletion" and thus decreasing the daily limit for commercial harvesters for next season, that overall, the impact would be negligible and the public should have access to the resource with a higher daily limit. While this issue cannot be resolved in the short term as it is in statue and not regulation, it has been identified as something to discuss next session with the Legislature and that it would be adequate for the full Scallop Advisory Council to have a thorough conversation on this topic. In addition, issues were raised about commercial divers taking recreational divers on the same trips and that there should be a "most restrictive rule" regarding harvest limits when both sets of licenses are on board at the same time and the limit for each member of the trip should only be 2 quarts of meat per person.

When the discussion turned back to rotational management, an alternate proposal was suggested. In lieu of rotational management, the participants preferred to maintain the current closures, with some modifications, and allow limited access such as one or two days per week in these areas. The current closed areas are recognized as well stocked, and by limiting access to them, will ensure that a healthy seed stock is maintained. Participants felt that the Casco Bay closure could stay the same, however, the Damariscotta and Sheepscot closure area may require some modification to help relieve those areas surrounding it that have remained open and have been overfished. For this area, it was suggested that opening the offshore portion of the closed area may be advisable as it would provide greater harvesting opportunities to draggers fishing around this area. Participants stated that they would prefer to better understand the current closed areas and how harvest can impact the biomass in those areas as well as how those areas have recovered over the past 3 years through observations on harvest in the coming year, rather than move forward and with additional closures without this thorough understanding. In addition, due to the fact that there are very limited areas containing scallop beds that are targeted by either draggers or divers in and around Casco Bay, that there is simply not enough viable harvesting areas to be able to adequately divide up into three yearly rotations. They believe that the surrounding areas have been able to withstand the additional pressure that has been redistributed out of the current closed areas and use this as justification for not needing rotational management or additional closures – for the Casco Bay area at least. Overall, they felt that a limited harvest in the current closed area, the original 42 day season and a lower daily landing limit where preferred, at least for the areas West of Pemaquid point.

Region 1: NH – W. Pen Bay

Outland Mating Runners May 22nd

Rotational Schedule of Zones Within Each Region

Zones	Year 1 2013-14	Year 2 2014-15	Year 3 2015-16	Year 4 2016-17	Year 5 2017-18	Year 6 2018-19	Year 7 2019-20	Year 8 2020-21
1	X	X	OPEN	X	X	OPEN	X	X
2	OPEN	OPEN	X	X	OPEN	X	X	OPEN
3	OPEN	OPEN	X	OPEN	X	X	OPEN	X

0 45 0

Region 1: NH – W. Pen Bay
George Freeman

7 foot high dunes

Keep Rivers close to 1 day open offshore of the mouths of the Rivers.

NO DOLLS south of this line

George Freeman

Zone	Year 1 2012-13	Year 2 2013-14	Year 3 2014-15	Year 4 2015-16	Year 5 2016-17	Year 6 2017-18	Year 7 2018-19	Year 8 2019-20
1	X	X	OPEN	X	X	OPEN	X	X
2	OPEN	OPEN	X	X	OPEN	X	X	OPEN
3	OPEN	OPEN	X	OPEN	X	X	OPEN	X

0 45 90

6

Western Maine, Sheepscot to Western Penobscot: Thursday, May 24, 3-6pm – Rockland

Attendance: Doug McLennan, Travis Fogg, Charles Oliver, Jeff Mills, Derek Mills, Bryan Kelley, Bill Sutter and Jim Wotton.

SAC Attendance: Dr. Rick Wahle

DMR Staff: Trisha De Graaf, MPO Marlowe Sonksen and MPO Derek Knutsen.

Highlights

- **Partial support for rotational management**
- **Proposed an alternate plan of retaining current closed areas with limited, alternating harvest, and 135 lbs daily limit**
- **Data from DMR Scallop Survey should be better used & presented to industry**

Summary: The meeting commenced with a discussion regarding the size of the current closed area and the fact that having those areas open next year for the proposed 1 day/week in December would not allow fishermen to fully discover what has rebuilt on the bottom as only 10% of the bottom will be fished. The landings data will not be reflective of what the biomass actually is on the bottom if those areas are only opened up for one day/week harvest. While it was explained that the basis for the one day/week at the beginning of the season was to phase in harvest during a period when it is unknown as to how much effort will be exerted on each closed area in terms of fishing behavior and reactivation of latent licenses during the first few weeks of the season, it seemed to be more a concern of landings data not accurately reflecting the state of the resource. The conversation then turned to use of the landings data for the timely monitoring of harvest to help inform management decisions.

Unfortunately, the department does not have the resources to implement and administer weekly dealer or harvester landing reporting, however, this area has been deemed a high priority in the recent reorganization of the department and it may be possible to have this as a tool in the future, however, not for next season.

There was a discussion as to the actual state of the resource and the possibility that it may not in fact be “overfished” or “in decline” but that it is an environmental or water quality issue due to pollutants that were discharged 12 years ago from a chemical factory in upper Penobscot Bay. Currently, there are only a few productive scallop beds left, and if rotational management was implemented, fishermen were concerned that it would effectively mean there would be no place for anyone to go fishing on as they will be closed off. It was raised that there needs to be a clear understanding of what we need to rebuild this fishery back to as well, as basing it on the landings level from the 1980’s of approximately 3.5 million lbs./year may not be appropriate as that includes federal landings and is not reflective of the true potential for Maine’s inshore state waters scallop fishery.

The goal for the fishery overall was raised, in terms of whether this fishery is to be considered a “full time” fishery for just a few core participants, or a supplemental fishery for the maximum amount of participants as possible. It was raised that this fishery may not even be able to support the current active participants of around 300 people and that in fact it can only support 250 people. Some participants thought that the goal should be to provide the benefits from this fishery to the maximum number of participants as the fishery used to support 1200 participants, however, that included federal waters fishing as well. The real issue is that the fishery can’t support the current amount of participants, and that issue cannot be resolved for next season.

There was a general acknowledgement and agreement among all the participants at this meeting that this area, West of Penobscot Bay, is much different than the rest of the coast where the majority of the

fishery occurs. Participants wished to pursue a different strategy than rotational management to meet the goal of rebuilding the resource and preferred the lower landings limit of 135lbs and using the currently closed areas as limited access areas, splitting them in half and rotating harvest on a yearly basis, or at a minimum, making them smaller (Figure 5 & 6).

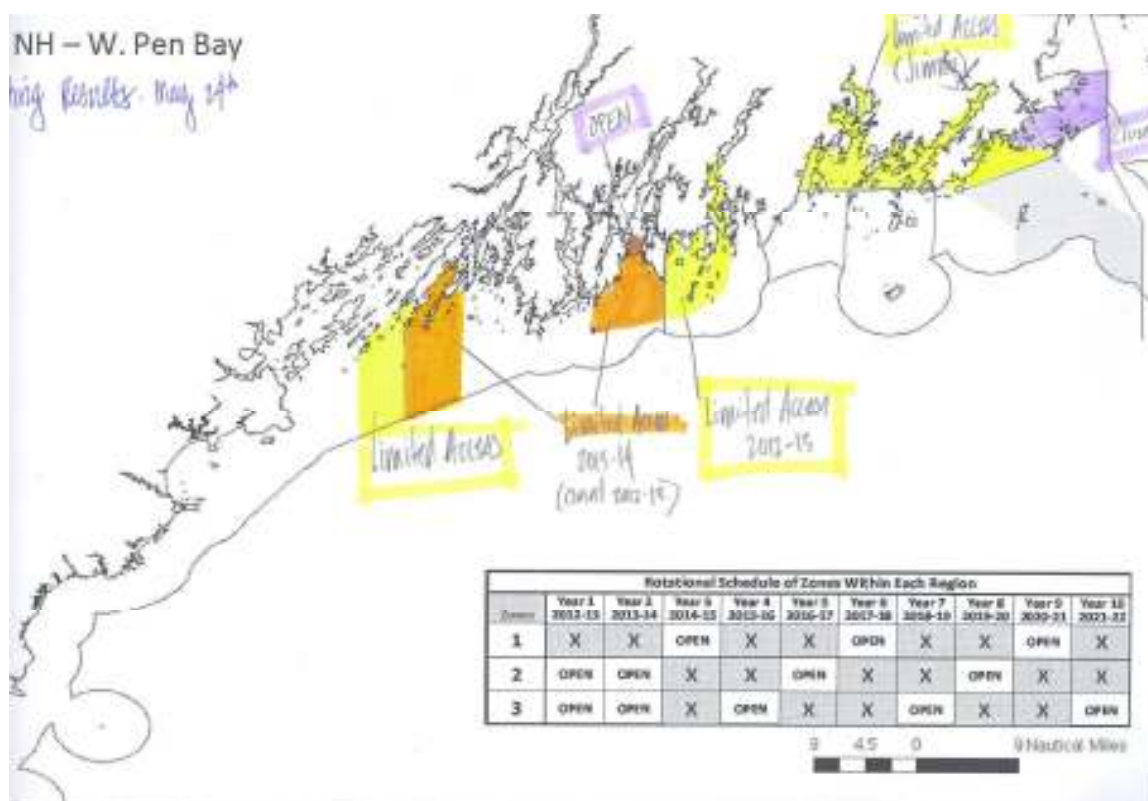


Figure 5. Rockland meeting results.



Figure 6. Recommended change to the northern boundary of the closure in Sheepscot Island, running from Hendricks Head to Dry Point.

The Maine survey was discussed and compared to the federal survey; while it is a good start in itself, the issue was raised that the data and information gleaned from the survey was not being utilized to its

full potential and could be better presented to the industry. Suggestions were to compare data from inside the closures to areas outside, examining at differences in size frequency as well as decreasing the uncertainty around biomass estimates at this end of the coast to ensure that fishermen have confidence in these estimates. It was suggested that the long term time series of data from the survey should be examined to look at increases and decreases in the overall biomass in an area or the state overall and to use this to evaluate the current status of the resource. Finally, it was acknowledged that more work needs to be undertaken to understand the source and sink dynamics of spat and work continues to further explore and possibly explain this under the guidance of Dana Morse.

MDI Area: Thursday, May 31, 5-8pm, Ellsworth City Hall

Attendance: Lawrence Hodgkins, Dennis Staples, Jim Dow, James West, Mike Murphy Sr., Mike Murphy II, Erin Owen, Steve Rappaport, Michael Kramp, Donald Havener, Chris Haycock, Ronald Trundy, David Leach, Adam Stanwood, Fred Backman, Carla Guenther and Mike Kersula.

SAC Attendance: Alex Todd

DMR Staff: Trisha De Graaf, MPO Tom Reardon Jr. and Scientist Kevin Kelly

Highlights

- In support for rotational management; however some participants preferred only 1 year closures with 2/3rd of the coast always open
- Would like “Trigger” mechanism defined before agreeing to new closures
- Concerned about grey meats

Summary

The meeting started off with a participant generally supporting the rotational management proposal, however, only if it were based on one year rotations where at any point in time only 1/3 or 33% of the areas would be shut down for rebuilding. He felt that when the rotational management plan, as currently proposed, fully kicked in, that it would cause the fleet to be congested in the smaller areas that remain open and worries that there is simply not enough room or resource to support the fleet. It was suggested that by having one year rotational closures, that there would still be some benefit, as areas would be given a rest and have the ability to rebuild, and the fleet would be able to spread out thus not heavily impacting areas that are open. After further discussions, several other meeting participants echoed this sentiment as a compromise to the current proposal.

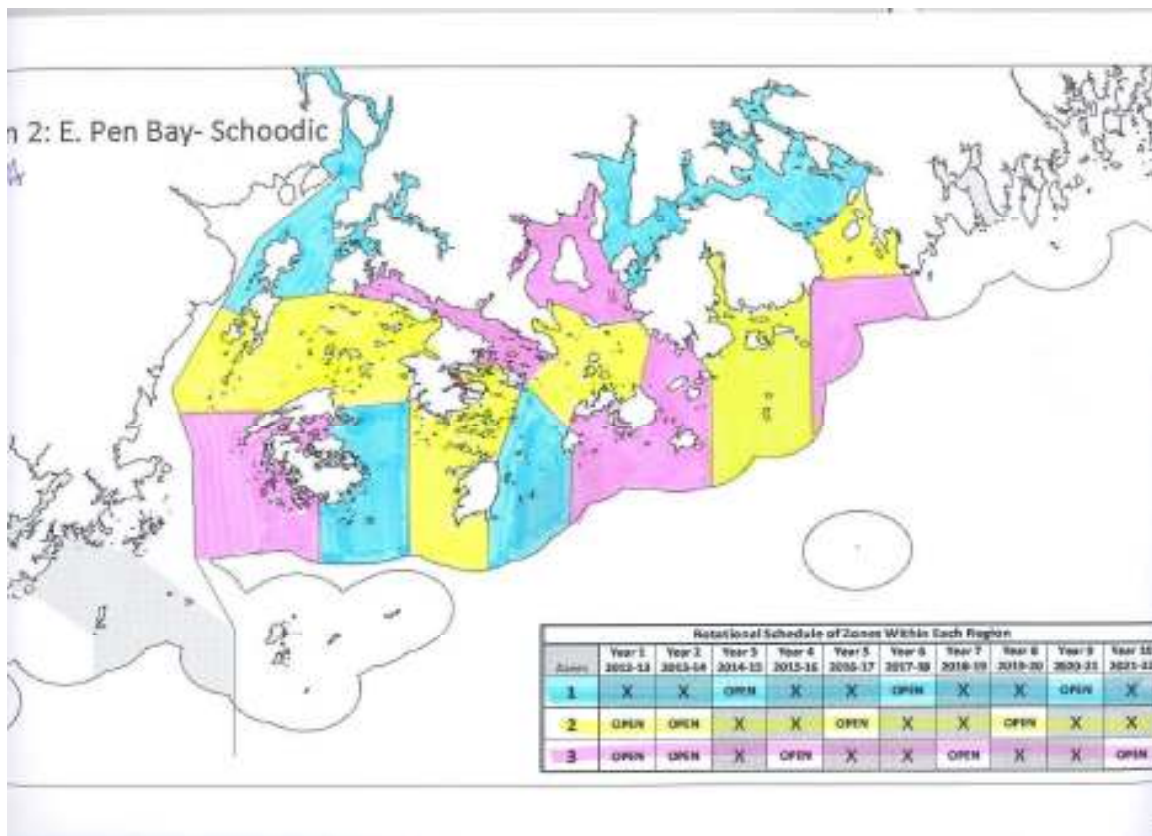


Figure 7. Example of rotational management for Region 2 given to fishermen as a starting for discussion.

For the example map that was provided for Region 2 (Figure 7; E. Penobscot Bay – Schoodic), many members preferred to have all of Blue Hill Bay one area, instead of broken up into two smaller areas and that the entire area be opened up for harvest next year as there is harvestable biomass there, or will be, as evidenced by the large amount of product, which included sublegal product, present this season. It was suggested that by opening this area up next year to the fishery, that it could help spread the fleet out as it would be attractive for boat from this area to fish on in lieu of travelling down to Cobscook Bay, thus relieving the effort in that area. Also, it would give divers inside areas to fish on in all three rotations, as the example that was provided originally only had inside areas available in two of the three rotations. In addition, it was suggested that all of Frenchman’s Bay be made into a large are, instead of split into three areas – at a maximum, two areas if needed (Figure 8 & 9).

One participant expressed the need to know what the trigger to shut down areas would be up front before agreeing to any rotational management plan. It was explained that a definition for the trigger may take time to develop over the coming year and would be preliminarily based on Marine Patrol, Port Sampling and Sea Sampling observations and a plea was made to those in the room to report issues as they arise to help stem the need to use the emergency rule. It was stated that the goal should be to leave biomass on the bottom and that it will likely take this coming season to work on perfecting the use of the trigger mechanism. Simply having a bucket/tow or a certain number of fishermen landing their quota by a time of day would be difficult to employ as each fisherman fishes differently, and that communication will be the key to working the trigger out. A few fishermen expressed interest in taking along sea samplers next season to collect direct observation next year.

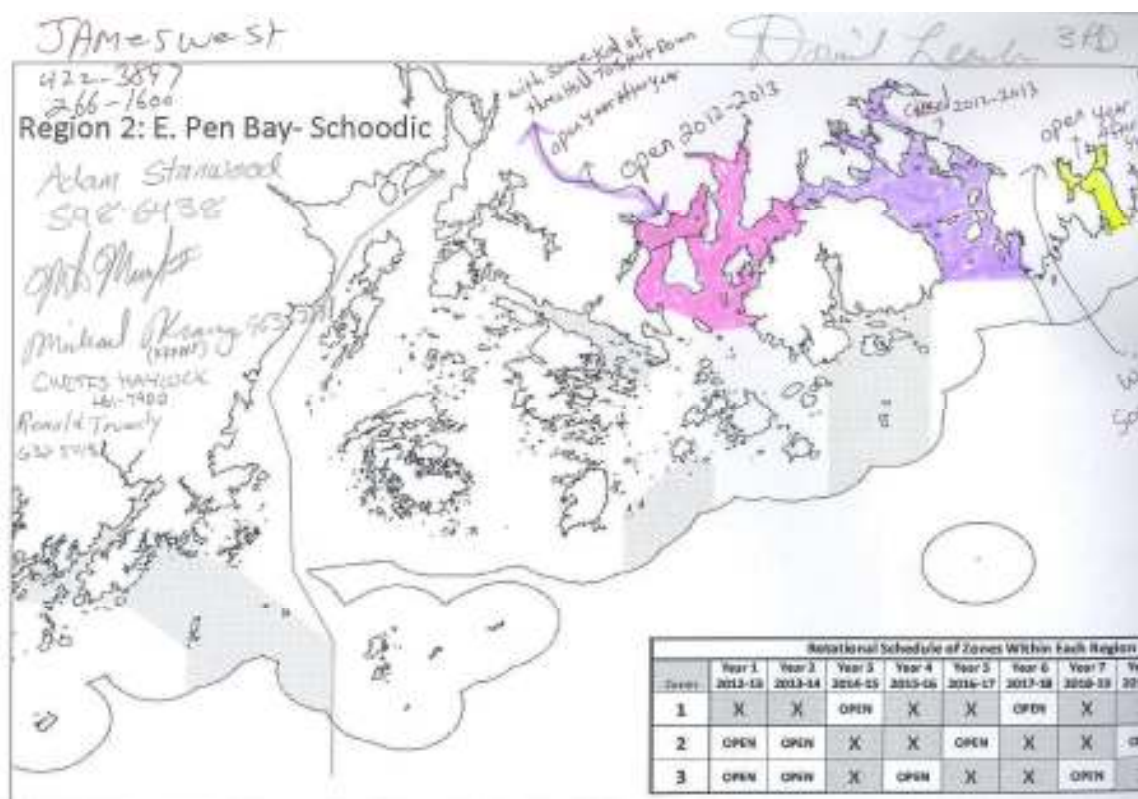


Figure 8. Participants suggested revisions to the originally presented example of rotational management for Region 2.

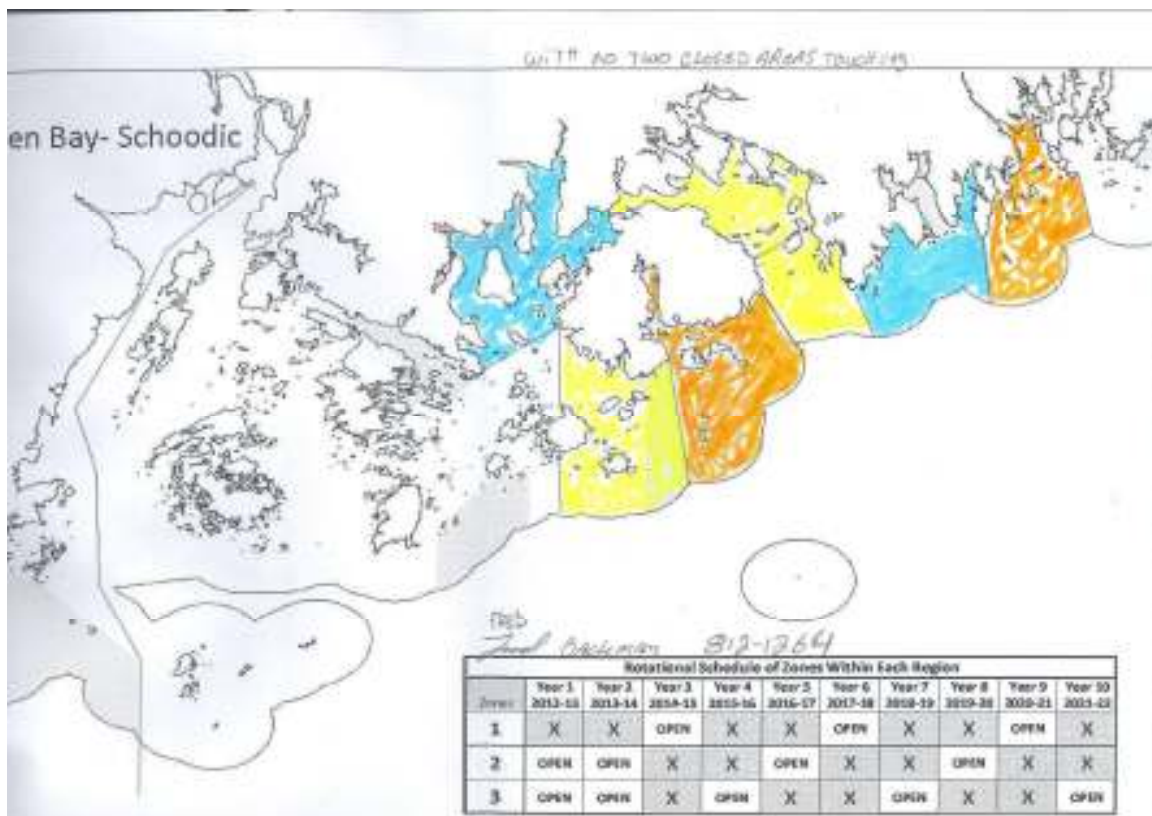


Figure 8. Fred Backman's suggested revisions to the originally presented example of rotational management for Region 2.

The issue of grey meats came up, and there was a concern from some fishermen that the Machias Bay closure may contain a large amount of this product that is to be harvested next season. Scientist Kevin Kelly stated that there were no incidents of high mortality in either that closed area or the areas outside of that closure; however, the survey was conducted before the season opened. It was explained that the department is working with SMAST to coordinate sample collection on the current Northern Gulf of Maine survey and that samples from the Machias area had been sent to a pathology lab this past season for further examination. Meat quality is a high concern and this issue remains a priority to determine its cause.

One participant suggested an alternate proposal for Cobscook Bay; that it be divided into thirds and that there be 10 days in harvest in each third for a total 30 day season for that area as the area is protected from strong winds and fishermen are able to get out any day and get their full 30 days in if wished. In addition, a harvester who had missed the Portland meeting had some suggestions for the Region 1 area to make that work better and have good fishing ground in each year of the rotation (Figure 10). One participant expressed concern over the fact that the areas are much smaller than originally proposed and that having such small areas present a greater risk due to recruitment failure as this end of the coast does not appear to have local recruitment and rely on downstream transport of spat from upstream; however, at this time, we still do not have a full understanding of scallop spat source-sink dynamics making it challenging to suggest an appropriate alternative to what was proposed.

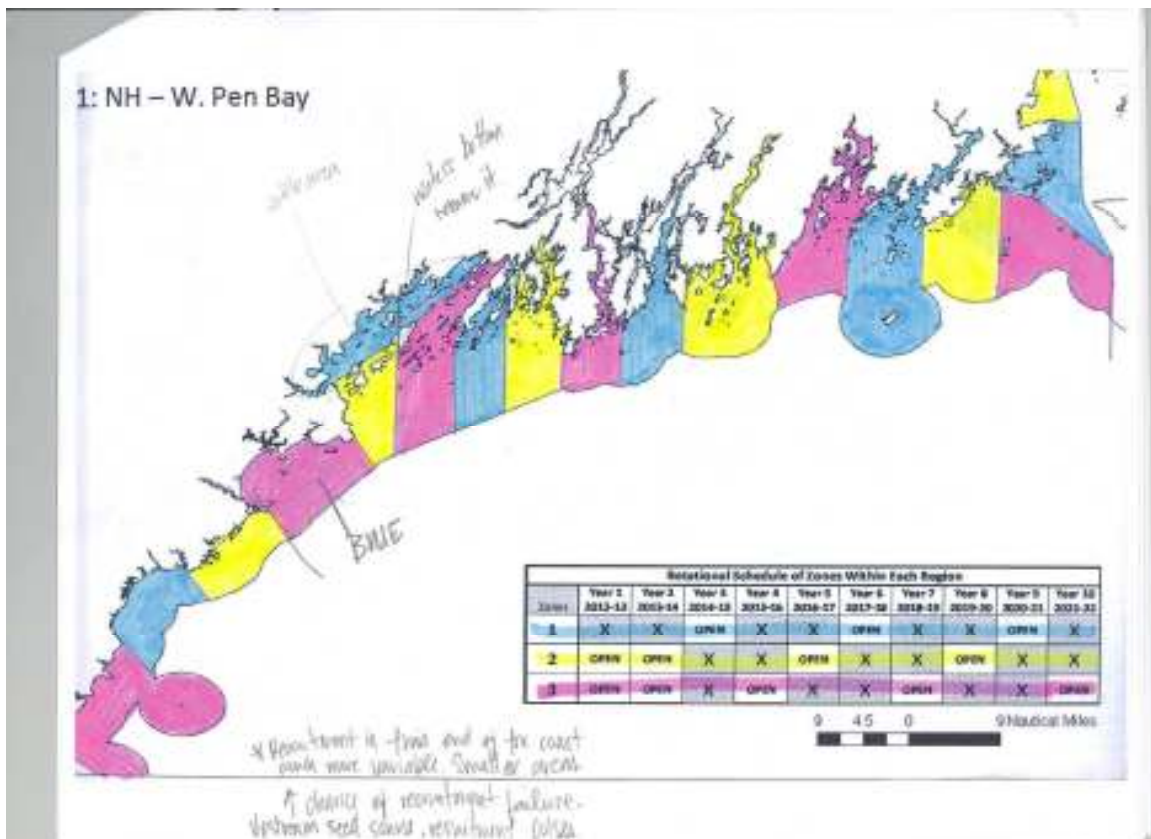


Figure 10. Suggested revisions to Region 1 example.

Finally, one participant suggested that the areas that have been highly productive in the past be available each year for limited harvest and closed by the trigger mechanism. He believed that the Gouldsboro Bay and Blue Hill Bay closure, if managed properly and shut down in a way so as to leave enough biomass on the bottom, would be able to provide enough biomass to the fishery on an annual basis and could help relief effort from areas that need more time to rebuild.

Machias/Bucks Harbor/Cutler: Tuesday, June 5, 10:30 am-1:30pm, East Machias

Attendance: B.J. Wood, Ben Crocker Jr., and Carla Guenther.

Press: Tom Walsh – Bangor Daily News, John Rule – Quoddy Times, Togue Brawn – Commercial Fisheries News.

SAC Attendance: Jimmy Ackley

DMR Staff: Trisha De Graaf, MPO Jason Leavitt, MPO Troy Dow, MPO Russel Wright and Scientist Kevin Kelly.

Highlights

- **In support of rotational management**
- **Want closed areas closed to all other drag/dive fisheries**
- **Not in support of closures along the international boundary (ie. St. Croix)**
- **Would like option of transitioning to one year rotations longer term**
- **A two year rotational management plan is preferred for Cobscook Bay**

Participants at this meeting generally supported the rotational management proposal. A concern raised was for the presence of small, sublegal scallops – do the closures that are to be offered up first on the schedule project known aggregations of smaller scallops? Preliminary results from the 2011 DMR Fall Scallop Survey identify several areas along the coast where a large proportion of the survey tows (>75%) contained sublegal sized scallops (Figure 11). It was explained that the rotational management plan should be developed in a long term context and be based upon dividing up known productive scallop beds into each of the three rotations. Overlaid on top of that can be smaller, more targeted on year closures to protect area that have high concentrations of sublegal scallops which warrant protection. In addition, should industry members discover areas mid-season with a large amount of sublegal scallops, they are strongly encouraged to pass this information along to the department so that a sea samplers can be deployed to the area to assist in the evaluation of an area that may require an emergency shut down. The real challenge for next year will be the shutting down the current closed areas that contain a sizeable amount of harvestable biomass after around 30% has been harvested as the long term goal for these areas, an eventually the rest of the state is to only remove what can be naturally replaced by the resource on an annual basis. This way, the overall resource will continue on a path of rebuilding, while allowing the fishery to continue in a limited fashion. This will involve a “trigger” mechanism, which may take the next season to evaluate and develop with an integral part of it success hinging on industry participation and communication.

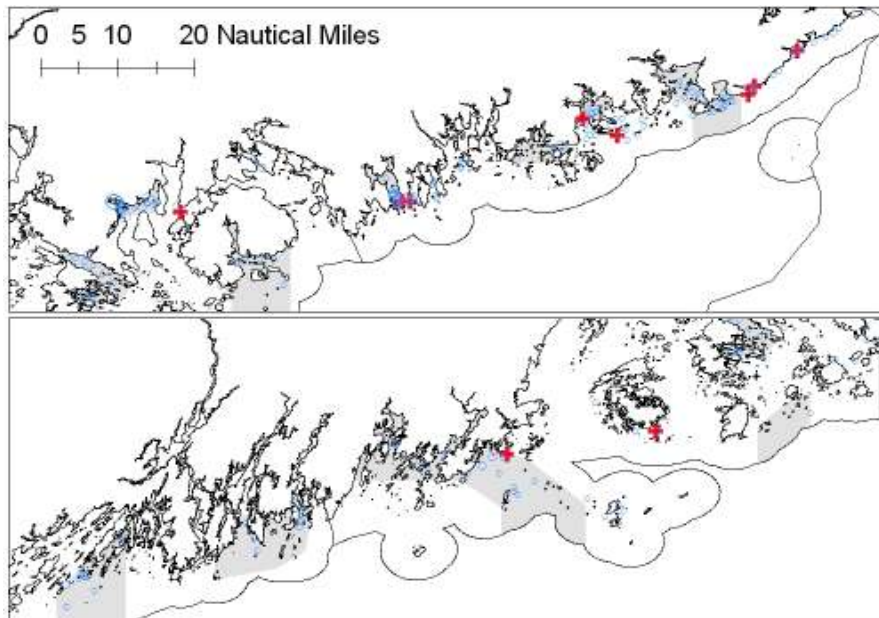


Figure 11. Fall 2011 DMR Scallop Survey tows containing >75% sublegal scallops.

A harvester raised the concern these areas should be closed to all drag and dive fisheries, including sea urchins, sea cucumbers, and mussels as it did not seem fair to exclude one fishery while another with similar fishing practices and gear types can continue to fish. It was explained that while what is good for one species may be good for others, this conversation was currently happening with scallop fishermen at this point and that in the future there may be conversation with other fisheries to enhance scallop closures by expanding them to those fisheries as well. At this time, the boundary line between Region 1 and Region 2 is the Zone boundary between Zone 1 and 2 for sea urchins and this in effect was a “placeholder” for future discussions with members of that fishery. Currently, the Zone 2 sea urchin fishery is facing phased-in mortality reductions for the 2012/13 season and overlapping closures for both fisheries warrants discussion for 2013/14 if further reductions are warranted.

Concern was expressed over having closures along the international boundary line as many believe that Canadian scallop boats crossed the line and harvested scallops in the St. Croix closed area. It was suggested that the St. Croix not be offered up for the first round of closures and in the meantime, department staff would explore the possibility of having a joint US/Canadian closure in the future. Marine Patrol staff stated that after examining VMS data, there did not seem to be any Canadian boats that crossed over into the US closure; however, the possibility of a joint closure will be explored.

Finally, the question was asked as to whether or not it would be possible to transition to a two year plan once the resource has been rebuilt where at any point in time only half of the coast is closed. One of the goals of this plan is to be adaptive and to be able to provide the maximum economic benefit to the industry and that it could be a possibility.

After the initial discussion was over, meeting participants then went to work drafting up lines with the help of Marine Patrol to ensure their enforceability. The result was 4 areas at the eastern end of Region 3 (Figure 12).

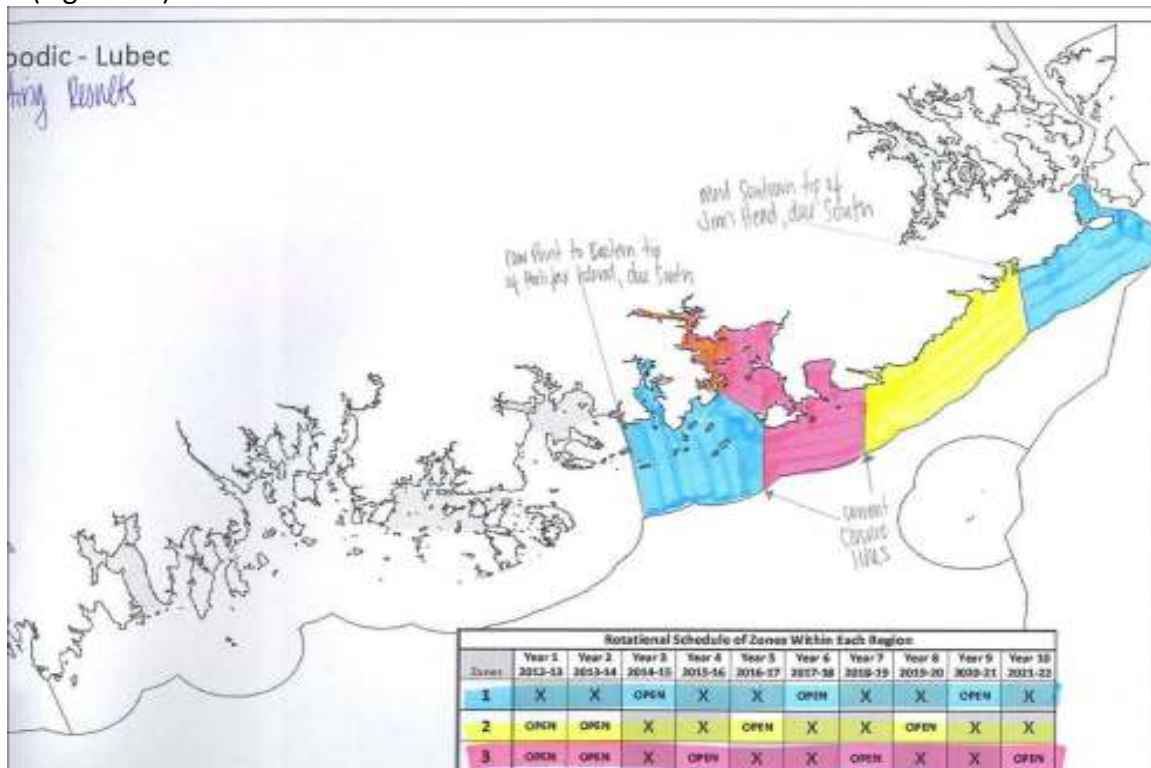


Figure 12. East Machias meeting results showing four rotational closures that were drafted up by participants.

Also, meeting participant debated how rotational management could work in Cobscook Bay. Fishermen present were shown the map drafted up at an earlier meeting by Barry Huckins (Figure 2) and said that look fine to them. However, some of the marine patrol officers questioned the enforceability of that proposal and developed two map; one for a three year rotational plan made up of three rotating areas (Figure 13) and an alternative two year rotational plan with a one-year targeted closure for the area around Eastport that has been overfished due to East and South Bays being closed down by emergency in the 2011/12 season and Whiting/Denny's bay being closed for the past three years (Figure 14).

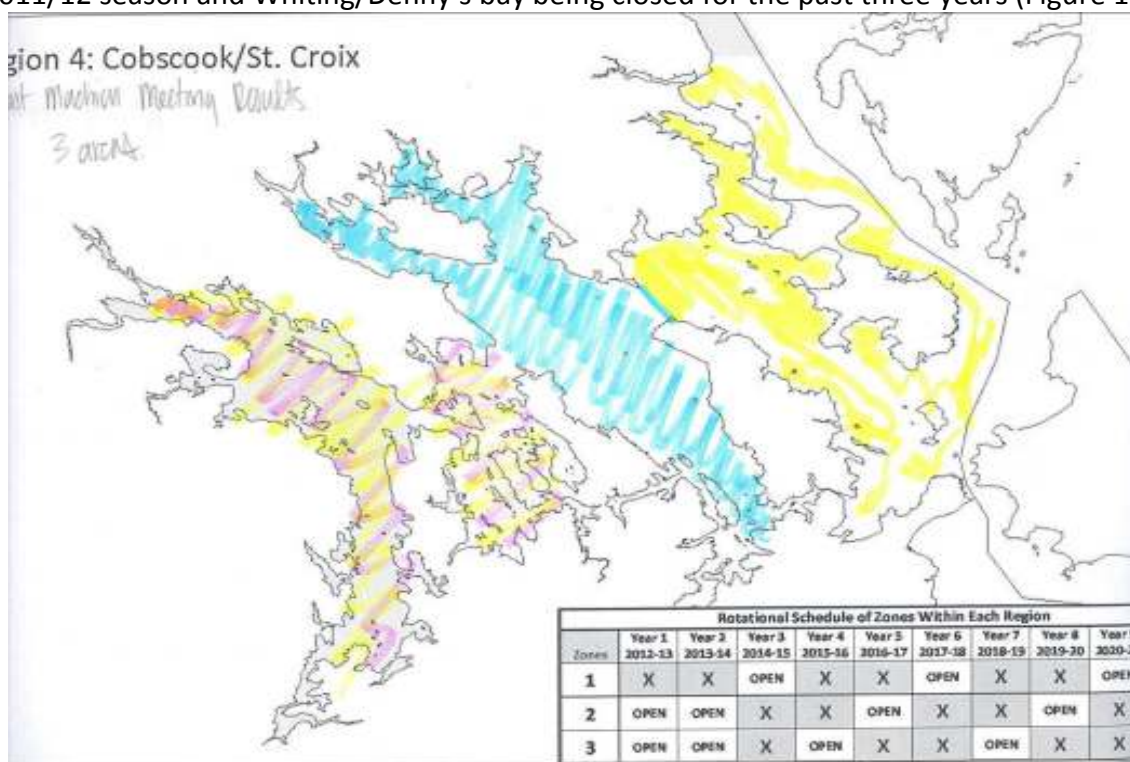


Figure 13. East Machias meeting results reflecting a three year rotational management strategy for Cobscook based on the rotation of three areas within the Region.

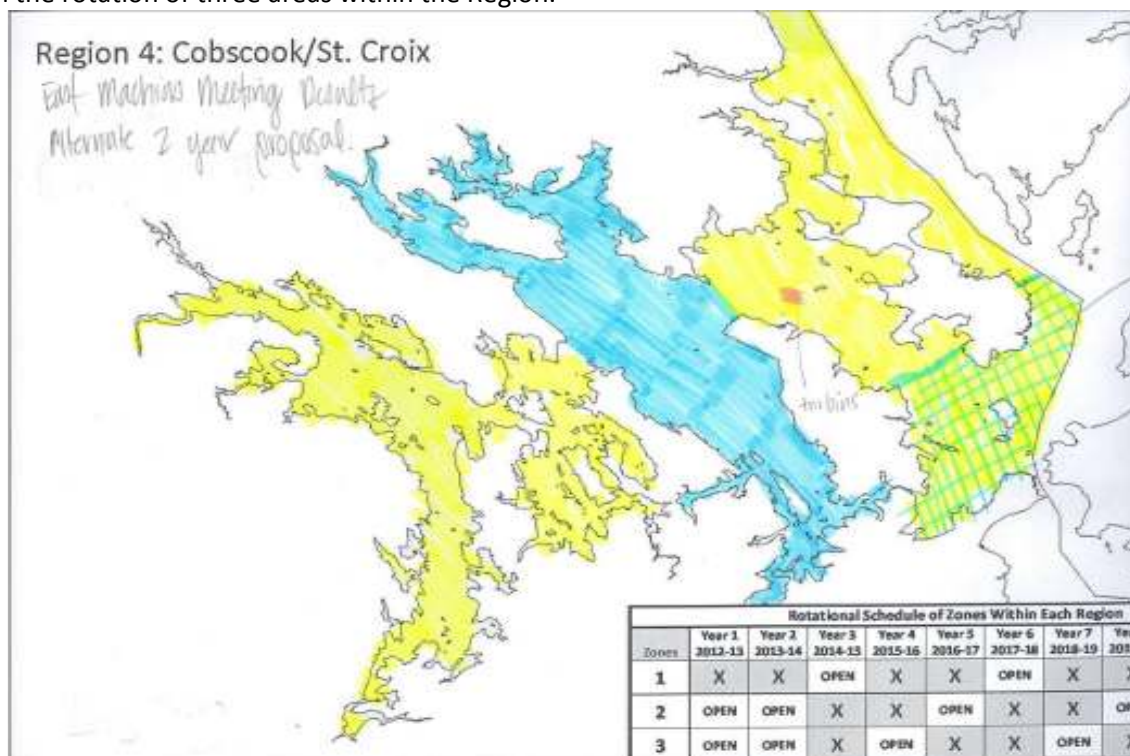


Figure 14. East Machias meeting results reflecting an alternative two year rotational management strategy for Cobscook based on the rotation of areas in two alternating years within the Region.

Jonesport/Beals Island: Tuesday, June 5, 4-7pm, Jonesport High School, Jonesport

Attendance: Preston T. Alley, Ira Kelly, Earnest Kelly Jr., Rick Guptill, Ed Guptill, Thurman Alley, Kevin Durkee, Larry Finnegan, Maurice Alley, Leonard E. Durkee and Carla Guenther.

Press: Nancy Beal and Togue Brawn – Commercial Fisheries News.

SAC Attendance: Jimmy Ackley

DMR Staff: Trisha De Graaf, and MPO Gordon Faulkingham.

Highlights

- In support of rotational management
- Support stiffer penalties for those that violate regulations/laws
- Support expanding closed areas to other fisheries with similar gear types
- Support alternating days that divers/draggers access closed areas (ie. Divers go first one week, then draggers and vice versa, etc...)
- Support permanent closed areas as seed sources
- Support closures for next year in the Mud Hold and Chandler Bay
- Support gear restrictions inside islands

Overall, this group of participants was generally in support of the rotational management plan and went right to work drafting out areas. During this exercise, several concerns were raised that included the need for stiffer penalties for violators, expanding the closed areas to other fisheries with similar gear types (urchin, sea cucumbers and mussels) and the blatant out of season scallop harvesting that has been occurring in this area. It was explained that the legislature would have to change the statute to increase fines while expanding the closures would be a larger conversation with those particular fisheries that possibly could happen in the future. For the out of season harvesting, particularly in “The Reach”, an area that was seeded with scallops a few years ago, it was recommended that Marine Patrol be notified as soon as possible when this is happening.

Another issue that was raised was concerning the current proposed season; draggers do not feel that it is fair that divers get to have access to the closed areas before the draggers. It was suggested that this be alternated weekly. There was also a conversation about having a 5 1/2” gear restriction inside the outer islands (Figure 15), however, not all participants agreed with the size as it would mean that days would be lost when the weather was not bad as larger drag owners would not be able to fish up inside the island where it is protected.

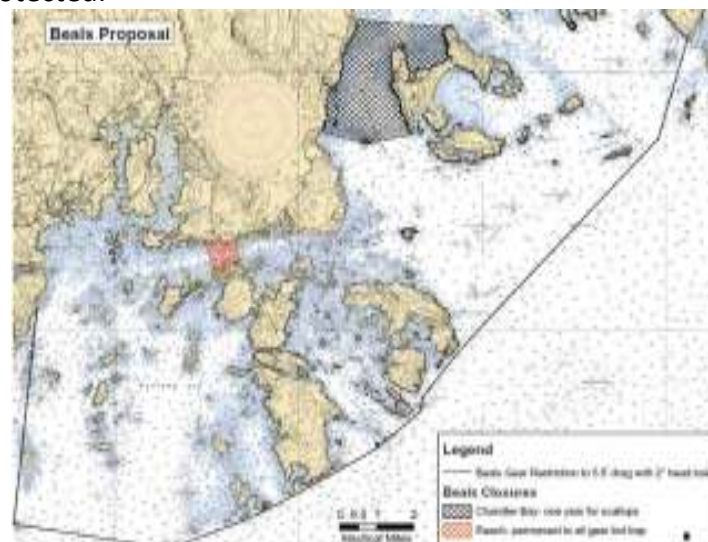


Figure 15. Drag restriction line requiring a limit on drag size to no bigger than 5 1/2” inside the line.

Once a map of rotating closures was drafted up for the area, one fisherman from the Addison area noted that the year that the closure in that area opens that there will be a lot of pressure on it as the fleet from both Jonesport/Beals and Milbridge/Winter Harbor would be fishing there. This area was increased in size to accommodate both fleets as it is a buffer between both areas. Below is the overall summary map (Figure 16), followed by maps indicating the areas requested to be shut down for one year to allow them to recover for overharvest in Mud Hole Channel (Figure 17) and Chandler bay (Figure 18) as well as a permanent closure to protect broodstock and spat production in The Reach (Figure 19).

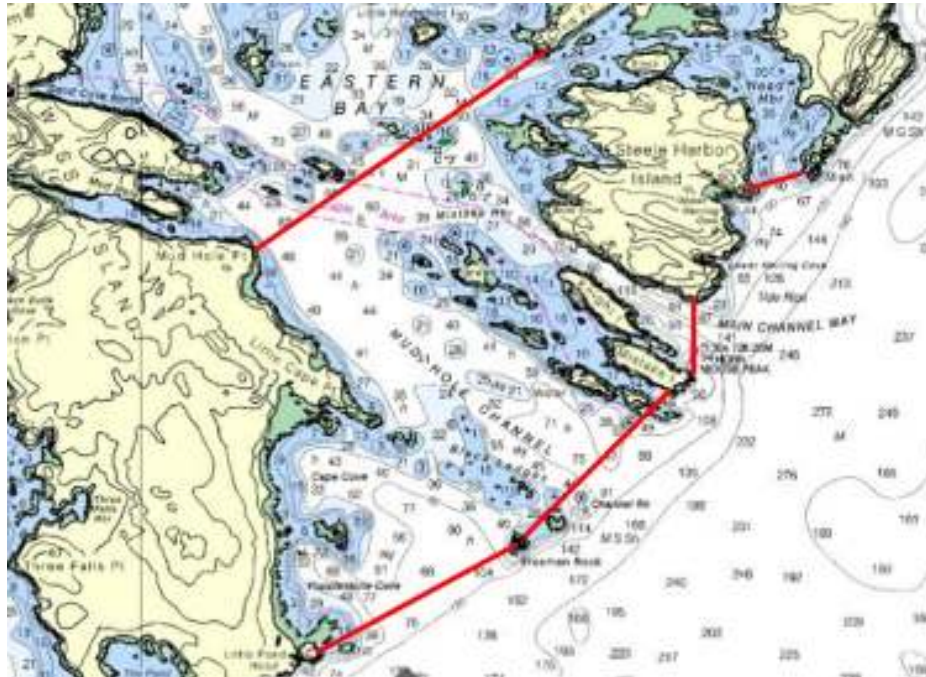


Figure 16. Proposed targeted one year closure to allow scallops to rebuild from being overfished the past few years in the area around Mud Hole Channel between Great Wass Island and Head Harbor Island.



Figure 17. Proposed targeted one year closure to allow scallops to rebuild from being overfished the past few years in the area around Chandler Bay, west of Roque Island.



Figure 18. Proposed targeted permanent closure in The Reach allowing for the conservation of broodstock scallops and enhancement of spat production to the surround areas due to high tide velocities in through this reach to neighboring bays.

Finally, the line delineating two closures between Addison area and Jonesport was revised to include a sliver of area that has been closed in the current closure so that fishermen may access scallops that have rebuilt in that area for next season was proposed at this meeting as well (Figure 18).

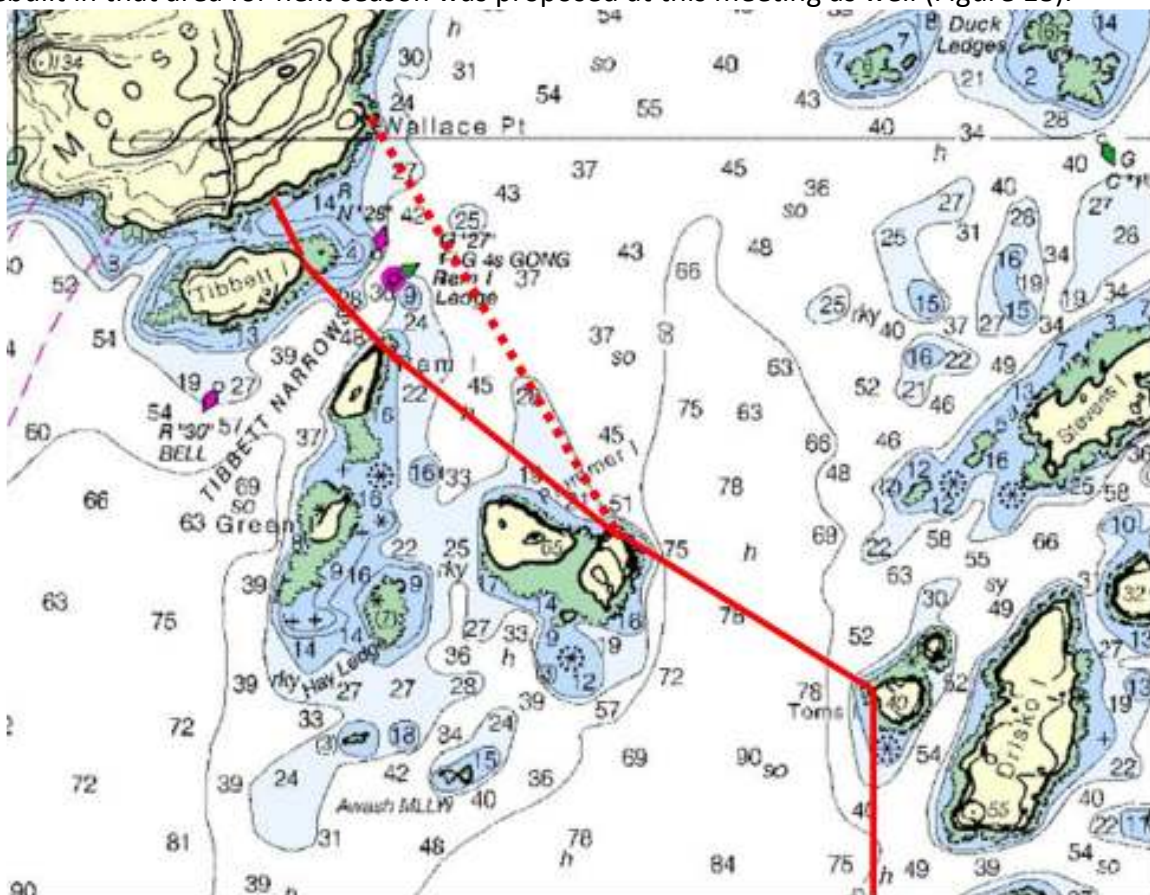


Figure 19. Proposed revision of the delineating line of two closures in Addison/Jonesport area, running south of Moose Neck. The new proposed line is shown in solid while the previous line is represented by the dashed line.

Eastern Penobscot Bay: Monday, June 11, 6-9pm, Stonington

Attendance: Michael Eaton, Frank Jones, Derek Jones, Kurt Ciomei, Justin Boyce, Representative Walter Kumiega and Carla Guenther.

Press: Barbara Eaton and Susan Jones – Commercial Fisheries News

SAC Attendance: None

DMR Staff: Trisha De Graaf, and MPO Sean Dow.

Highlights

- **Not in support of rotational management**
- **Proposed an alternate plan of retaining some current closed areas with limited harvest (1day/month to 1 day/week), 135 lbs daily limit & shorter 42 day season**
- **Support for long term closures to protect seed sources (broodstock)**
- **Need to understand how current closed areas are working before proceeding with more**

The group was given copies of two rotational management schemes for Region 2 which had been presented to (Figure 7) and developed after the previous meeting in Ellsworth (Figure 20) to consider.

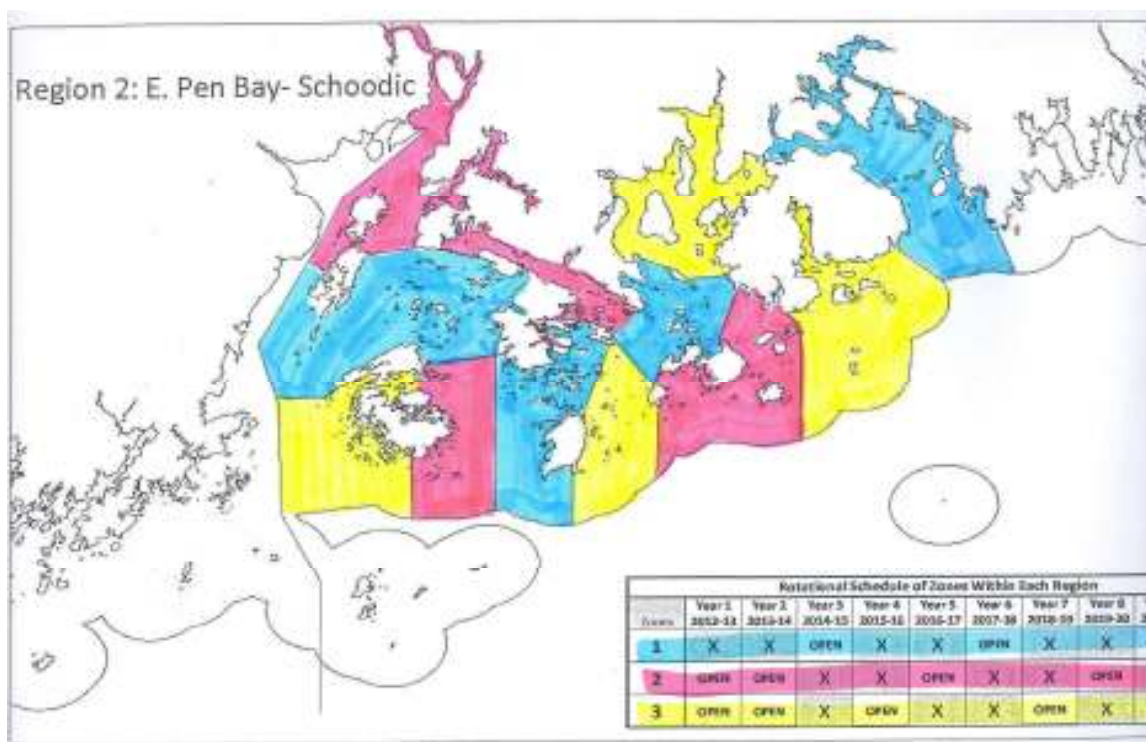


Figure 20. Example of rotational management for Region 2 that was developed after the Ellsworth meeting with input from that meeting's attendees.

Generally, this group of fishermen was not in support of rotational management with either of these examples. They instead preferred to have a much more restrictive season with a daily limit of 135 lbs. with only one day a month or one day/week at the very most in the closed areas. They feel that the Blue Hill Bay has seeded the entire area around Stonington and Deer Isle and that scallop beds are sparse and spread out and in any year of the rotation there was not enough area for the fleet to spread out into. They also feel that fishermen should have to pick an area to fish in and stay there. Many feel they would like to see a long term plan on how the current closed areas will be managed instead of shutting additional areas down. One of the attendees said he would support a one year rotational plan as it would not put too much effort on any scallop bed in any rotation and an alternative map that was

drafted up with the help of Carla Guenther of PERC was provided (Figure 21). This version of the map would include having Upper Blue Hill Bay/Union River Bay closed for the 2012/13 season as indicated in orange, but then reverting back to one larger closure area in combination with the rest of Blue Hill Bay. It also incorporates the desire by this group to protect the Blue Hill Bay Harbor and Salt Pond as well as the upper reaches of Southeast Harbor (including Inner Harbor) longer term as indicated in red. Overall the group felt that there was a need to first understand how the current closed areas responded and will be affected by controlled harvest next year before moving forward with this plan.

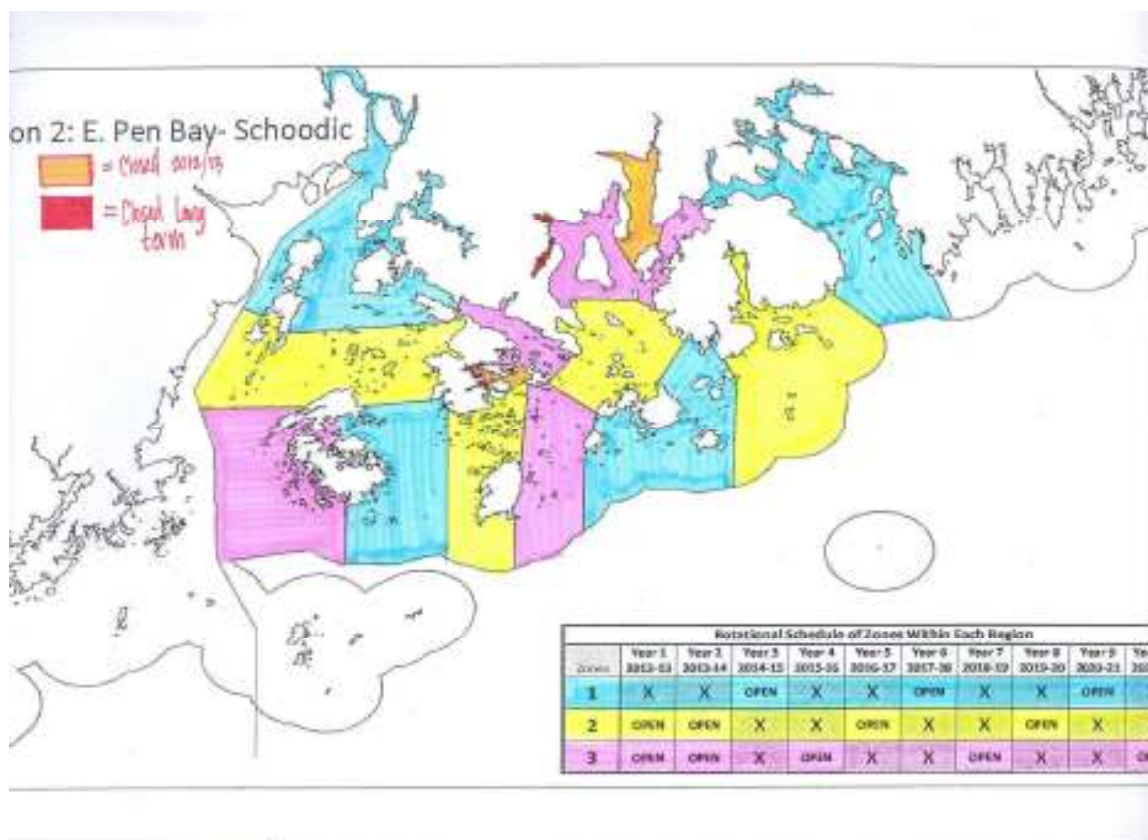


Figure 21. Amended map of rotational management in Region 2 provided at the meeting. This map was adapted from one that was drafted up by Justin Boyce with the help of Carla Guenther. Areas highlighted in orange are proposed for closure only for the 2012/13 season; areas in red are proposed to be closed for longer term.

Other issues that were raised during the meeting included the desire to have stricter penalties for those that violate marine resource regulations and law, having equal access to closed areas to both divers and draggers in the closed areas and that the current constituency of the Scallop Advisory Council did not include anyone from their area that represented their interests, particularly for draggers.

Next Scallop Advisory Council Meeting – Thursday, June 21, 3-7pm, Ellsworth City Hall, Ellsworth.

*******PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE TO 3PM*******

For more information or questions regarding the scallop resource or the development of the rotational management plan, please contact **Trisha De Graaf**, Marine Resource Management Coordinator, at the Maine Department of Marine Resources either by phone at (207) 624-6554 or by email at trisha.degraaf@maine.gov.